

Week Ending Friday, June 1, 2001

**Statement on Passage of the
“Economic Growth and Tax Relief
Reconciliation Act of 2001”**

May 25, 2001

As a result of this landmark tax relief agreement, the American taxpayers will have more money in their pockets to save and invest, and the economy will receive a much-needed shot in the arm. I commend the Members of the House and Senate, Republican and Democrat alike, who made this happen. Tax relief is a centerpiece of our American agenda, and I look forward to signing it into law.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President’s Radio Address

May 26, 2001

Good morning. Most Americans are enjoying a 3-day weekend this Saturday, and I hope you are enjoying yours. I also hope you’ll find the time to share in our Nation’s observance of Memorial Day, when we pause to reflect on the cost of the free lives we live today.

I will be marking the day with military veterans gathering at the White House, who knew and remember the people who never came back from our Nation’s wars. I will then go to Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. It will be a high honor, and I will be there on behalf of all the people of the United States. Later that day I will join with veterans in Arizona for a commemoration and national moment of remembrance.

Most of us know war veterans. I had the privilege of being raised by one. Usually, they are reticent about their experiences. It is often difficult for them to think back on those

names and faces, on the ones who never lived to be called veterans. But on Memorial Day, we accept our obligation to do just that.

We will remember the heroism, the hardship, the national gain, and personal loss our wars have brought. America has been given so much, but of all our assets, resources, and strengths, none have counted for more than the courage of young soldiers in the face of battle.

When war has come, the great decisions were made here at the White House. But when the orders went out and were received half a world away, victory has always come down to the people flying the planes, manning the ships, carrying the gun and the pack. They’re the ones who have cleared the seas, crossed the rivers, charged the hills, and covered the skies. They have defended us. They have died for us. They have never disappointed us. We are in their debt more than a lifetime of Memorial Days could ever repay.

With their sacrifice comes a duty that will go on through the generations, to honor them in our thoughts, in our words, and in our lives. Every Memorial Day we try to grasp the extent of this loss and the meaning of this sacrifice. But it always seems more than words can convey. In the end, all we can do is be thankful; all we can do is remember and always appreciate the price that was paid for our own lives and our own freedom.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 3:40 p.m. on May 24 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 26. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 25 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Remarks on Passage of the
“Economic Growth and Tax Relief
Reconciliation Act of 2001”**

May 26, 2001

Well, thank you all very much for joining me here at the people's house on this historic occasion. I asked all of you to join me here to be able to publicly thank the Members of the House and the Senate for working so diligently to give Americans another important reason to celebrate this holiday week-end.

I first want to thank House Speaker Dennis Hastert and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott for their strong and effective leadership, leadership that was instrumental in delivering significant tax relief for the American people. I thank the incoming majority leader of the Senate, Tom Daschle, for working with us to schedule today's vote promptly. I very much appreciate Senator Daschle's willingness to allow the will of the majority of the Senate to prevail, even though he, himself, did not agree.

I thank all the members of the conference committee, especially Chairman Chuck Grassley and Chairman Bill Thomas, Senator Max Baucus and Senator John Breaux, who worked tirelessly to make tax relief a reality. I also want to especially thank Don Nickles, Phil Gramm, Olympia Snowe, and House Majority Leader Dick Armey and all who helped make tax relief possible. And while I'm thanking people, I want to thank all those who voted aye, and so do the taxpayers of America.

Today, for the first time since the landmark tax relief championed 20 years ago by President Ronald Reagan, and 40 years ago by President John F. Kennedy, an American President has the wonderful honor of letting the American people know significant tax relief is on the way.

What is especially significant about the tax relief passed by the United States House and Senate today is that it cuts income taxes for everyone who pays them. Nothing could be more profound, and nothing could be more fair. No more wondering whether you're targeted in or whether you meet all the fine print requirements to qualify for one special tax break or another. No, this tax relief is

straightforward and fair. If you pay income taxes, you get relief.

And for this year's first installment of the tax cut, the check will literally be in the mail. Late this summer and into the fall, every single American who pays income taxes will receive a check. Single taxpayers will receive a check of \$300. Single parents who are heads of household will receive a check of \$500. And married couples will receive a check of \$600.

That immediate tax relief will provide an important boost at an important time for our economy. And what is more is you can feel comfortable using it because more tax relief is on the way. The checks are the first installment of lasting, long-term reductions in tax rates. As a result, when this tax relief plan is fully implemented, a typical family of four will see their taxes cut by about half.

The check you will receive in the mail represents your benefit from the newest lowest rate, which drops from 15 percent to 10 percent. Starting in July and continuing next January, the Federal Government will begin reducing the amount it withholds from paychecks to reflect the first phase of new and lower tax rates.

Ultimately, tax rates will be reduced from the current 28 to 25, from 31 down to 28, from 36 to 33, and from 39.6 to 35 percent. Over the next 10 years, the child credit will double from last year's \$500 per child to \$600 per child this year to \$1,000 by the year 2010. The marriage penalty will be dramatically reduced, and the unfair death tax will be completely abolished by the year 2010.

This tax relief helps all taxpayers. It especially helps those at the low end of the economic ladder. It helps American workers by letting them keep more money. And it helps small businesses, so that family-owned restaurants and startup software companies can hire more workers and provide more jobs for Americans. The tax relief package honors marriage and family by reducing the unfair marriage penalty and doubling the credit for children. It does away with one of the most unfair aspects of the Tax Code, a death tax that taxes earnings when you make them, the interest when you save them, and one more time when you die.